

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**November 25, 1821**

Novr. 25th. 1821 \_

I thank you my dear Maria, for your agreeable letter from Wheeling \_ and trust you had no more fatigue in your home ward journey after you left that place \_ Mr. Bayard called to inform us that you had taken passage in a steam-boat. and were thus enabled to avoid the bad roads of Ohio \_ this is really charming \_ then you & your little darling will not have paid too dearly for the happiness you afforded us \_ and our dear Ben's rest was not disturbed by anxiety, for to-morrow \_ and you are comfortably fixed at home again \_ recounting your adventures to Judith-Ann. & scarcely realizing that you have accomplished so long a journey \_ whilst we, miss you in every part of the house and every hour of the day \_ every visitor reminds us of our loss, and enquires how we can do without the baby. and tells us what a charming winter we should have had, if you had spent it with us \_ all which I feel, but get mad to hear from people who care nothing about it \_ last night we had the first snow. & winter seems to have commenced with it \_ the wind proclaims it aloud this morning \_ and the fur-clad belles trip merrily to church, to welcome a new season & shew how much they are indebted to other animals for the comfort & beauty of their appearance \_ by the by, it is not the belles alone who have borrowed this convenience \_ all the medical students have adopted ladies caps. and parade the street with Fur turbans and silver bands just like yours \_ add to this the Tartan-plaid, and you have the very picturesque costume of our medical college \_ has Dr. Caldwell brought you any thing so eloquent & decorative? and the poor Miss Hunts! what a sad disappointment they will be obliged to wear sables. not -withstanding  
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the [tasty] articles you sent them \_ poor Rachel Cohen is grateful for your sympathy \_ she who told her love to every one who would listen to it \_ never tells her grief \_ but lets concealment prey on her fallow cheek". she scarcely speaks a word. sits looking in the fire & broods over her disappointment nor have we yet been able to prevail on her to go out of the house. tho' Maria Hays sent for her to apply a blister to her [cheek], as a cure for deafness. which Rachel on other occasions was ever the first to assist in \_

Mr. Moses has just brought me a letter from John Myers announcing the death of his brother Abraham, the youngest of the brothers you

saw here. he was three weeks ill of a disease of the brain \_ he says they have had a dreadful summer. but this calamity makes all others weigh as a feather in comparison \_ the book of destiny appears really to have been inverted to them. a few Years ago, they were as prosperous and full of favors. as the patriarch Job. before Satan received a commission to prove his integrity \_ and now are almost as prostrate under trials \_

do you remember the distress of mind we observed David Seixas was under the day we visited the Institution? he has been removed from his situation \_ the accusations brought against him for levities, (not crimes) were treated with I think undue severity \_ he has had enemies & prejudices recently at work against him \_ and the poor fellow has been sacrificed to them \_ Mr. Clerc the dumb teacher from Hartford has superceeded him \_ I never was more shocked than when made acquainted with these circumstances, and all the Ladies of the committee were equally ignorant, we think ourselves ill treated in not being made acquainted with what was going on \_ for I verily believe had we known something of the matter it might have been prevented. The Matron must have some turn to serve or has been deficient in her duty \_ at present very little is known, but of course the town is full of talk. and a  
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variety of opinions are [afloat] most persons think David an injured man, and I sincerely hope he may prove so, at any rate the institution has been very injudiciously subjected to suspicions. which appears to me, [have] arisen from ill temper in a few hot headed malicious persons, who could not bear to see a Jew enjoying the fruits of his labour \_ I beg of you to say nothing about it \_ when the truth is known I will communicate it to you \_ Jac's uneasiness & Seixas's [behaviour] the day we were there, must have concerned you they were in some trouble \_ I mentioned my suspicions to Ben when you were here \_ every thing in the family goes on in the way you left them. Hyman suffers a good deal with his rhumatism. back gammon or whist amuses him of an even'g & I get dreadfully scolded for bad play when his partner in the latter [...], of which indeed I am very ignorant. he often praises you [...] well as the only Ladies he ever knew who could play [...] [but?] I mean to study Hoyle and strive to rival you \_ we have [...] Monday evening for family parties & commence the season here to-morrow. Sister Etting comes to town once a week. to see Miriam \_ and Louisa occasionally passes a day with Rachel. they are all well. and send love to you.

Indeed I could not help laughing at your unnecessary trouble at Pittsburg, it was so natural, I have often been fluttered quite as needlessly. and invented so many polite

apologies. and suffered so many futile embarrassments of my own providing, while those I imagined were preparing occasions for them, were as innocent as Mrs. W. of any such intention \_

Give my best love to dearest Ben, embrace my darling most tenderly for me. and assure yourself dear Maria of the utmost affection. I should love to know your Sisters, that I might plead for their regard \_ but be you my passport to them. present love to your Mother & Mr. Blair \_ and accept the very best & [sweetest?] from the whole family circle here which you have made yours in sentiment & fact. God Bless You, my dear  
Sister \_ RG \_

[Address:]  
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[Endorsement:]  
R. Gratz  
25. Nov. 1822